(d) whether additional hectares of land in that State is proposed to be brought under tea plantation; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) So far 213 hectares of land has been brought under tea cultivation in the Keonjhar District of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Tea plantations had a set back in the year 1989 in the State of Orissa due to unprecedented drought which resulted in heavy casualty of the bushes. However, the gardens have since been revived and during the year 1999, one lakh kg of tea was produced.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The State Government has plans to bring 1000 hectares of land under tea cultivation for the benefit of small tribal fanners. An area of 100 ha. has already been identified by the State Govt, for immediate tea planting.

Import of Second Hand Cars

325. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any restriction has been imposed on imports of second hand foreign cars to ensure that India do not become a dumping ground of junks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure that pollution norms and safety norms are tested before permitting any import of automobiles?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Second hand/used motor cars (including jeeps and land rovers), are classified under Exim Code No. 87.03 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items. Presently imports under this Exim Code are restricted.

(c) Since the import of second hand foreign cars is restricted, the question does not arise.

Development of Commerce through Surface Route

326. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to Bangladesh Government for the development of commerce between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the stillwel road is highly useful as land route for commerce between our country and Myanmar and China; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to develop this route for commercial purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The possibility of increasing trade between India and Bangladesh is discussed and reviewed from time to time during high level bilateral consultations. Such consultations were held during the Commerce Secretary level trade review Talks in December, 1998 and during the visit of Commerce Minister of Bangladesh to India in May, 1999. The issues discussed in these meetings include ways and means to increase bilateral trade, improvement of infrastructural facilities, promotion of joint ventures etc.

(c) and (d) The Stillwel road may be useful as a land route for trade with Myanmar and China provided a stretch of around 300 KM in Myanmar is developed and made motorable by that Government.

Paid-up Capital of ECGC

327. SHRI PREMCHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has a paid-up capital of Rs. 100 crores;

(b) whether it has against it pending claims over Rs. 500 crores; and

(c) if so, how Government plan to provide guarantees in future against export securitisation for large volume exports, commitment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The paid-up capital of ECGC as on date is Rs. 280 crores.

(b) The net estimated liability of the Corporation in respect of claims preferred but not paid up to the close of the immediate fiscal year (1998-99) stood at Rs. 154.66 crores. As on 31.3.1999 ECGC had Rs. 271.48 crores in its "Reserve of Unexpired Risks" and the Corporation is confident of meeting all its claim obligations out of its own resources.